



Wisconsin Children in Out-of-Home Care

Annual Report for Calendar Year 2011

February 28, 2013

Research and Operations Section
Division of Safety and Permanence
Department of Children and Families

This report is available on the Internet at
<http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/cwreview/reports/OOHC-Y.htm>

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Table of Contents

Executive Summary	5
Introduction	7
Purpose of the Report	7
Overview of Child Welfare Service System in Wisconsin	7
Report Interpretation and Data Limitations	9
Key Definitions	10
Children in Out of Home Care	11
Trends of Children in OHC	11
Case Types of Children in OHC.....	12
Relative Placements.....	13
Demographics of Children in OHC.....	14
Child Demographics by OHC Placement Settings	17
Child Entry into OHC	21
Child Demographics of Entries	21
Initial Placement Settings	24
Child Removal Reasons	24
Child Discharge from OHC	29
Discharge Reasons	29
Child Demographics	30
Median Time to Discharge.....	33
Entry and Discharge Comparison	34
APPENDIX A	
Data Limitations	37
APPENDIX B	
Types of Out-of-Home Care Providers	38
APPENDIX C	
Statewide Use of Case Types	40
APPENDIX D	
County Use of Case Types	41
APPENDIX E	
Out-of-Home Care Caseload County by Age	43
APPENDIX F	
Out-of-Home Care Caseload County by Race	45
APPENDIX G	
Children in Out-of-Home Care by County by Hispanic/Latino Ethnicity.....	47

APPENDIX H	
Children in Out-of-Home Care by Grouped Placement Setting.....	50
APPENDIX I	
Children in Out-of-Home Care by Grouped Placement Setting by County.....	51
APPENDIX J	
Children in Out-of-Home Care by Placement Setting by Age Range	53
APPENDIX K	
Children in Out-of-Home Care by Placement Setting by Primary Race	54
APPENDIX L	
Child Entries into Out-of-Home Care by County	55
APPENDIX M	
Map of Child Entries into Out-of-Home Care by County	57
APPENDIX N	
Child Entries by Initial Placement Setting	58
APPENDIX O	
Removal Reasons.....	59
APPENDIX P	
Entries and Discharges by County	61

Tables and Graphs

Figure 1	Total Number of Children in OHC	11
Figure 2	Total Number of Children in OHC by BMCW, Other Counties and SNAP.....	11
Figure 3	Children by Most Common Case Type	12
Figure 4	Children in Relative and Non-relative Placements	13
Figure 5	Children Placed with a Licensed Relative	13
Figure 6	Licensed Relatives Placements in the BMCW and Balance of State	14
Figure 7	Children in OHC by Age Range	14
Figure 8	Children in OHC by Gender/Age Range	15
Figure 9	Children in OHC by Primary Race	15
Figure 10	Count and Percentage of Children in OHC by Hispanic/Latino	16
Figure 11	Count and Percentage of Children in OHC with a Disability Determination	17
Figure 12	Number of Children with a Specified Disability	17
Figure 13	Children in OHC by Placement Setting	18
Figure 14a	Percentage of Total Number of Children in the Most Frequent Placement Settings for Caucasian Children	18
Figure 14b	Percentage of Total Number of Children in the Most Frequent Placement Settings for African American Children.....	19
Figure 14c	Percentage of Total Number of Children in the Most Frequent Placement Settings for American Indian/ Alaskan Native Children	19
Figure 14d	Percentage of Total Number of Children in the Most Frequent Placement Settings for Asian/Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander Children	19
Figure 15	Percentage of Total Number of Hispanic/Latino Children in OHC by the Most Frequent Placement Settings.....	20
Figure 16	Entries by Child Age Range.....	21
Figure 17	Entries by Gender/Age Range.....	22

Figure 18	Entries by Primary Race.....	22
Figure 19	Entries by Hispanic/Latino Children	23
Figure 20	Entries of Child by Disability	23
Figure 21	Initial Placement Settings	24
Table 1	Removal Reasons by Count and Percentage	25
Figure 22a	Most Frequent Removal Reasons for Children 0 - 1 Year by Gender	26
Figure 22b	Most Frequent Removal Reasons for Children Age 2 - 4 Years by Gender	26
Figure 22c	Most Frequent Removal Reasons for Children Age 5 - 7 Years by Gender	27
Figure 22d	Most Frequent Removal Reasons for Children Age 8 - 10 Years by Gender	27
Figure 22e	Most Frequent Removal Reasons for Children Age 11 - 13 Years by Gender	27
Figure 22f	Most Frequent Removal Reasons for Children Age 14 - 16 Years by Gender	28
Figure 22g	Most Frequent Removal Reasons for Children Age 17 - 18 Years by Gender	28
Figure 23	Most Frequent Discharge Reasons	29
Figure 24	Reunification by Age, Gender, Race and Hispanic /Latino Ethnicity	30
Figure 25	Guardianship by Age, Gender, Race and Hispanic /Latino Ethnicity	31
Figure 26	Adoption by Age, Gender, Race and Hispanic /Latino Ethnicity	32
Figure 27	Median Time to Discharge by Age.....	33
Figure 28	Median Time to Discharge by Race.....	33
Figure 29	Entry vs. Discharge Comparison by Age Range	34
Figure 30	Entry vs. Discharge Comparison by Gender.....	34
Figure 31	Entry vs. Discharge Comparison by Race	35
Figure 32	Entry vs. Discharge Comparison by Hispanic/Latino Ethnicity	35

CY 2011 Out-of-Home Care Report: Executive Summary

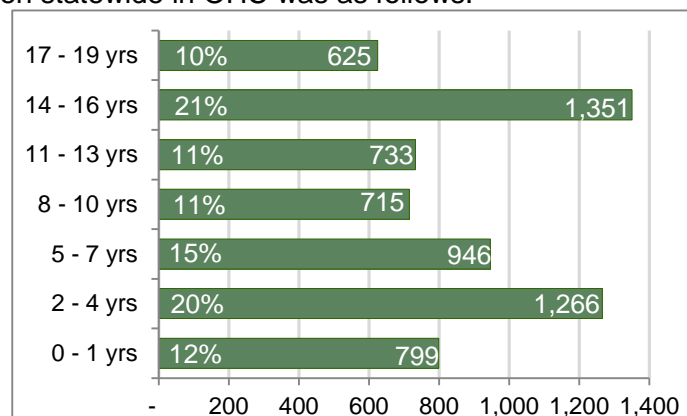
Statewide Summary

This report includes information on children in an out-of-home care (OHC) placement during Calendar Year (CY) 2011. Data from this report was taken from the eWiSACWIS SM10a112 Placement Activity and Detail Report for CY 2011. Counts presented in this report may vary and differ from other published information, which are based on different data sources.

Demographics of Children in OHC

As of December 31, 2011:

- A total of 6,435 children were in an OHC placement, a decrease of 74 children from December 31, 2010. A total of 934 fewer children were in an OHC placement at the end of CY 2011 than CY 2007.
- Children under the custody of the Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare (BMCW) represented 32% of the total OHC population.
- The age of children statewide in OHC was as follows:



- Slightly more males are in OHC (54%) than females (46%).
- Caucasian children represented 54% of all children in OHC care. African American children represented 38%.
- Statewide, 33% of children are placed with relatives. 35% of children in OHC served by BMCW are placed with relatives.

Entry into OHC in CY 2011

Of the children who entered OHC in CY 2011:

- 4,723 children entered OHC statewide; of these children, 26% entered in Milwaukee.
- 56% were Caucasian children, 35% were African American children.

Discharge from OHC in CY 2011

Of the children who discharged from OHC in CY 2011:

- 4,930 children and youth were discharged.
- There were 207 more discharges than entries.
- Adoptions were finalized for 795 children.
- Reunification was the most frequent discharge reason (61%).
- Children ages 2-4 accounted for the largest share of children discharged (19%).
- Caucasian children accounted for 56%, African American children accounted for 36%.
- The median time to discharge was 326 days.

Introduction

Purpose of the Report

The *Wisconsin Children in Out-of-Home Care Report* provides a broad overview of the children placed in out-of-home care (OHC) and presents demographic information for children in OHC during Calendar Year (CY) 2011. By supplying this information, it is hoped readers will have a better understanding of the youth served in OHC and the trends associated with the OHC population.

Data included in this report is presented at a statewide level, with information obtained from 71 counties, the Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare (BMCW) and the State-operated Special Needs Adoption Program (SNAP). The appendices to this report provide specific OHC data for individual counties, BMCW and SNAP.

Overview of Child Welfare Service System in Wisconsin

Wisconsin's child welfare system is state-supervised and county-administered in 71 counties and state administered in Milwaukee County and SNAP. The role of the Division of Safety and Permanence within the Department of Children and Families (DCF) is to supervise the county programs and assure the development and implementation of statewide policies and procedures that support child safety, permanence and well-being. In addition, the DCF administers child welfare services in BMCW and SNAP. For children eligible for tribal membership, placements into OHC can be made under the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) through tribal courts.

Kinship Care

Many children reside with relatives where the parent and the relative have made the living arrangement voluntarily and the relative caregiver is eligible for and receives a Kinship Care (KC) payment to support the care of the relative child. These voluntary arrangements do not constitute an OHC placement. There are three basic eligibility requirements for Kinship Care:

- the basic needs of the child can be better met living with the relative than with the parent(s);
- the placement is in the best interests of the child; and
- the child currently or would potentially meet the requirements for court jurisdiction as being in need of protection or services if the child were to remain with the parent(s).

A child's voluntary living arrangement with a relative may become court-ordered or a child may be placed with a relative under a court-order. Children placed in Court-Ordered Kinship Care (COKC) are considered to be in OHC and are subject to all permanency planning requirements. Data included in this report includes information from COKC cases, but not from voluntary Kinship Care cases.

Child in Need of Protective Services (CHIPS)

A child may be removed from his or her family home and placed into OHC due to safety concerns that cannot be controlled in the family home. If the Child Protective Services (CPS) worker determines that a child needs to be placed in OHC in order to ensure his or her safety, the child is placed into OHC via a court order or through a voluntary placement agreement. Children placed in OHC through a court

order are required to meet all permanency planning standards set forth by Wisconsin statute. Voluntary placement agreements can be for up to 180 days and placements must be court ordered to continue beyond 180 days.

Juvenile in Need of Protective Services (JIPS) and Delinquency

Children under a JIPS or Delinquency order may be placed in OHC. In order for the state to have jurisdiction under a JIPS petition, a child must meet one of the following as specified in s. 938.13 Wis. Stats.:

- be considered uncontrollable and the parent signs a petition;
- be habitually truant from school; be considered a school dropout;
- be habitually truant from home; committed a delinquent act before the age of 10, or;
- be deemed not responsible or not competent.

For the state to have jurisdiction under a Delinquency petition, a child (ages 10-17) must be alleged to have committed a delinquent act. After a referral is received by the county agency, the agency under the direction of local court system determines the types of services and interventions that will best address the needs of the child, family, and community.

This report includes data on children placed in non-secure OHC settings. Unless otherwise noted, the report does not include children in secure detention, juvenile corrections or adult corrections. The data does include placements in these settings as part of the overall OHC placement episode.

Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC)

Wisconsin's Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) (s.48.988 Wis. Stats.) is designed to protect the best interests of Wisconsin children who are being placed outside of Wisconsin and those children who are being placed in Wisconsin in foster care, relative care, adoption, or a residential facility. ICPC establishes uniform legal and administrative procedures governing the interstate placement of children and ensures that jurisdictional, administrative and human rights obligations of all the parties involved in the interstate placement are protected. Children placed out-of-state need to be assured the same protection and support services that would be provided if the child remained in his/her "home state." They must also be assured a return to their original jurisdiction should the placement prove not to be in their best interest, the placement disrupts, or should the need for out-of-state services cease.

Special Needs Adoption Program (SNAP)

When rights of both birth parents are terminated for a child in OHC by a death, voluntary or involuntary court action, guardianship of the child in OHC is transferred to SNAP. The State assumes foster care placement and payment responsibility for the child until the adoption is finalized. A child may be eligible for an Adoption Assistance subsidy if she/he meets SNAP eligibility criteria. Pre-adoptive children, in OHC pending an adoption finalization served by SNAP are included in this OHC report.

Report Interpretation and Data Limitations

The focus of this report is on the total population served under the child welfare program, i.e. those children and youth in an OHC placement who are placed under a court order or a formal voluntary placement agreement. Children can receive other types of child welfare services, such as in-home services. Information on other services is not included in this report. This report generally does not include counts of children in hospitals or mental health facilities unless the use of these facilities is part of an OHC placement episode.

The report is produced using data obtained from the electronic Wisconsin Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System (eWiSACWIS). eWiSACWIS is an automated case management system designed for child welfare workers to support practice and documentation regarding children and families they serve. Data is entered into eWiSACWIS by county, BMCW and SNAP caseworkers in the course of day-to-day case management responsibilities. Information documented by the caseworker and their supervisors is used to generate management and statistical reports, including federal outcome measurement reports. The use of eWiSACWIS allows for improved timeliness and accuracy of child welfare placement data in Wisconsin. The quality of the data in this report is dependent upon the accuracy and timeliness of data submitted by the local agencies.

The data presented in this report is generally consistent with data reported to the federal government to meet the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS). There are some differences with AFCARS data, particularly for juvenile justice cases, so the data and performance measures presented in this report may differ from AFCARS caseload and performance data for Wisconsin.

The primary data source for this report is the Division's SM10a112 Placement Activity and Detail report. This report includes placement of children in licensed family foster care, treatment foster care, pre-adoptive foster homes, group homes and residential care centers, unlicensed relatives or non-relatives, and court-ordered placements with relatives under the Kinship Care program (COKC). The OHC caseload counts include children placed for both child protective service and juvenile justice purposes. Statewide counts include children under placement and care of a county child welfare agency, BMCW, and SNAP. Data for this report was produced on December 12, 2012. Any data corrections or updates made by agencies after the time the data was produced is not reflected in this report.

Totals cited in graphs, tables and text throughout this report might not always be consistent. While a single data set is used for the report, there may be discrepancies in certain detailed information. Data inconsistencies may also be due to issues regarding conversion of data from HSRS to eWiSACWIS or inconsistencies in how data is recorded at the local agency level. DSP continues to work with agencies to improve data quality. Totals for the graphs and tables may vary as data elements in eWiSACWIS may be missing for some cases. Additional considerations regarding report interpretation and data limitations are outlined in **Appendix A**.

Key Definitions:

Child: Term used to address both children and juveniles served by county child welfare agencies, county juvenile justice agencies, BMCW and SNAP.

Discharge: A child's placement episode ends with the date a child is discharged from OHC. The discharge date represents the date the child achieves a permanent outcome, such as reunification, adoption, guardianship, or permanent placement with a relative or adoption.

Placement: The use of a facility or home provider for the physical placement of the child who has been removed from his or her family home.

Placement Episode: A placement episode starts with a child's removal from home and ends with a discharge from OHC to a permanent home or to independent living. A child may be placed in multiple placement settings within a placement episode.

Placement Settings: Child welfare agencies attempt to have a child stay in only one setting during his/her OHC experience. However in some cases a child may be placed with multiple providers or in different placement facilities during a single placement episode. These changes may be due to actions initiated by the agency, the provider, the child, the parent or the court. Standard placement settings include:

- Foster homes, including receiving homes, family foster homes, treatment foster homes and pre-adoptive foster homes.
- Unlicensed relative and non-relative homes.
- Group homes (GCCs).
- Residential care centers (RCCs).
- Shelter care.
- Detention.
- Trial reunification.
- Missing from out-of-home care.
- Supervised independent living.
- Hospital/Mental Health Facility.

Removal: A child's placement episode begins with the date of the child's removal from his or her home. The child is taken into physical custody and enters into OHC under a court order or via a formal voluntary placement agreement between the agency, the parents and the placement provider. Information regarding the types of out-of-home care providers used can be found in **Appendix B**.

Children in Out-of-Home Care on December 31, 2011

Trends of Children in Out-of-Home Care

The number of children placed in Out of Home Care (OHC) statewide has predominantly decreased over the past six years. **Figure 1** shows the decline of children in OHC since December 31, 2005. Over the six-year period, a total of 1,189 fewer children were in an OHC placement at the end of the calendar year (CY) in 2011, representing a decline of 16%.

Figure 1: Statewide, the number of children in OHC is declining.

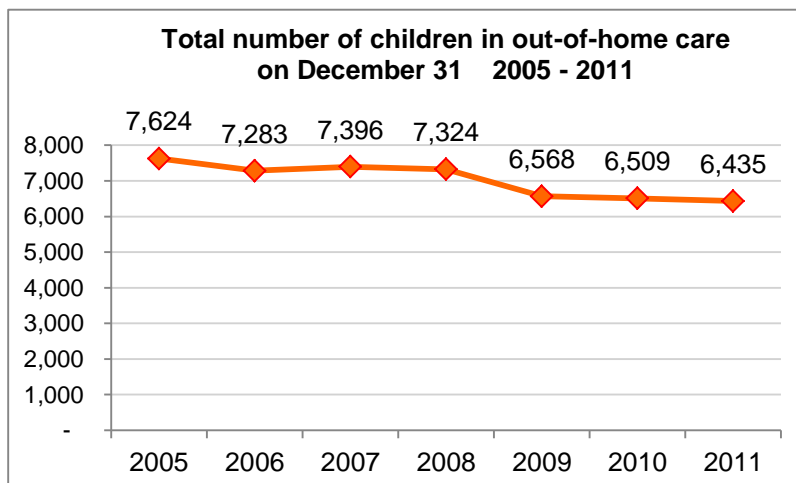
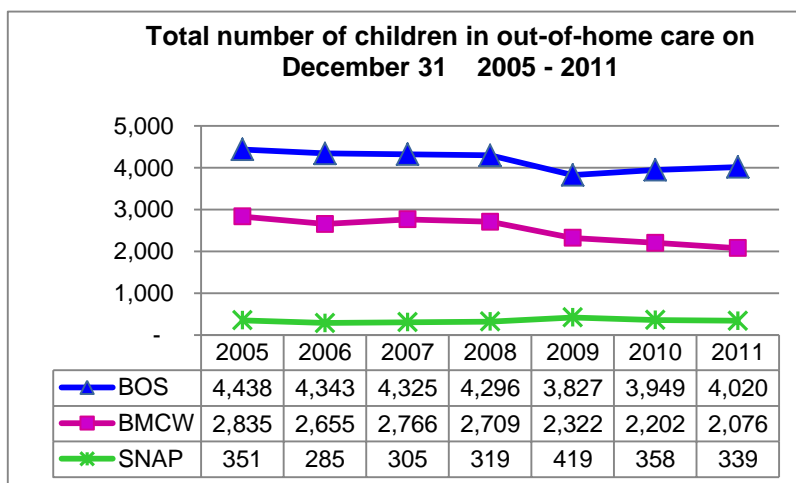


Figure 2 separates children in OHC by children placed in the Balance of the State (BOS), which represents non-Milwaukee counties, BMCW, and SNAP. The decrease in children in OHC has been steeper in Milwaukee than in the Balance of the State (BOS).

Figure 2: The decrease in children in OHC has been steeper in BMCW than the BOS.



Case Types of Children in Out-of Home Care

The following is a description of the most common case types for a child:

CPS Family Ongoing: Used to denote a case where abuse and or neglect has been alleged. This case type is very broad and is used to document cases involving primary caregiver as well as secondary caregiver maltreatment. This case type accounts for a large majority of children in OHC.

Juvenile Justice (JJ): This case type is used for both Delinquency Cases and JIPS Cases. This case type is used for cases where children are involved in JJ services, but there are no maltreatment or child welfare issues.

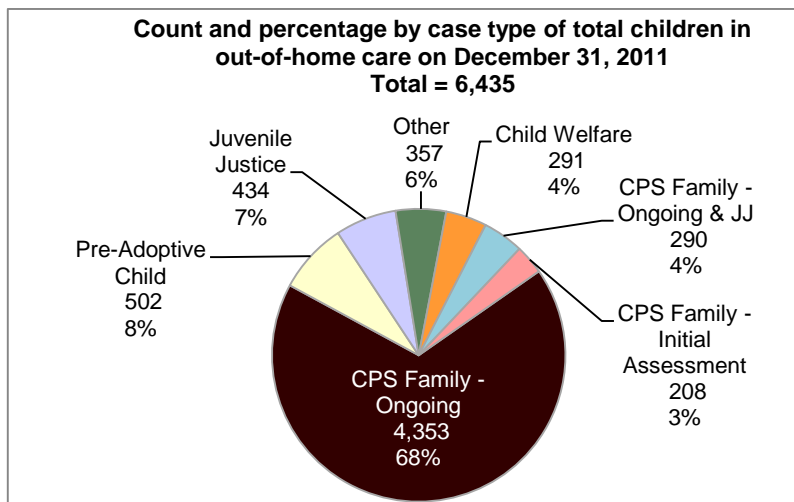
CPS Ongoing and JJ: This case type is used when a child or when multiple children within a single family case are being served due to CPS and or JJ related concerns. For example: an older youth within the family may be an adjudicated delinquent while the family is also being served due to CPS concerns related to a younger sibling.

Pre-adoptive: This case type applies to those children for whom a termination of parental rights (TPR) has been completed. This case is created when a child is deactivated from the CPS Family case for reasons of TPR. SNAP uses this case type to document its case management work between the TPR and finalization of the adoption.

Child Welfare: This case type is used to document those cases in which there are no specific allegations of abuse or neglect, but there is some service being provided to the child or family. This case type can include voluntary placements.

Other case types include those children and families served for other child welfare reasons such as CPS Ongoing and JJ, CPS Initial Assessment, CPS Initial Assessment and JJ, Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice, DCF Guardianship, ICPC, ICPC Pre-Adoptive Child, Voluntary Kinship Care, and CPS Licensed Provider.

Figure 3 outlines the most common case types noted for the children and their families. CPS Family Ongoing accounts for the largest percentage of cases.



Appendix C contains additional information on the “other” case types statewide.
Appendix D contains detailed case type information by count and percentage by county.

Relative Placements

Children in OHC may be placed with a relative via a Court-Ordered Kinship Care, Licensed Relative Foster Homes, and Unlicensed Relative Placement. Unlicensed relative placements are unpaid and are typically used on a temporary basis. Overall, there were 2,101 children in a relative placement on December 31, 2011. **Figure 4** shows the statewide percentage of children in a relative vs. non-relative placements.

Figure 4: Approximately one-third of children in OHC are in a relative placement.

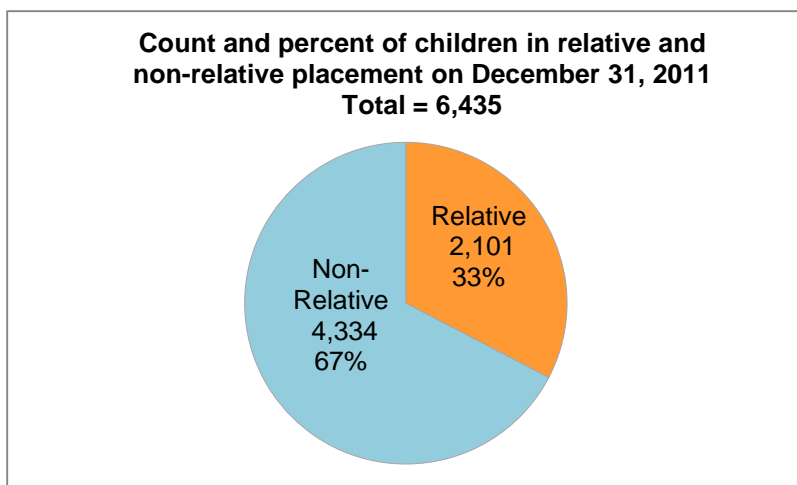


Figure 5: Over fifty percent of children placed with a relative are in a COKC placement.

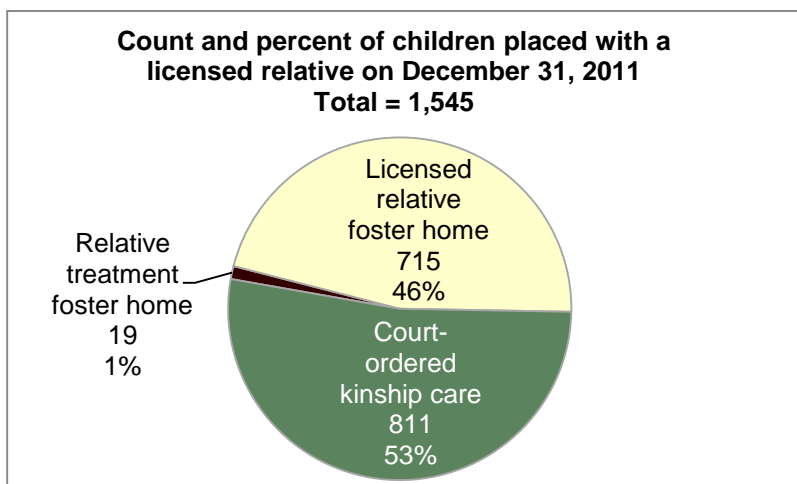
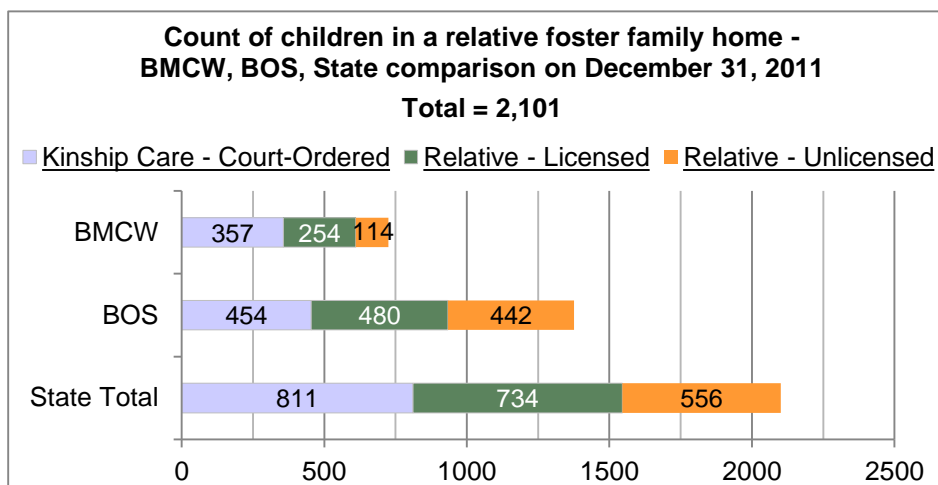


Figure 6 shows that children in BMCW account for 35% of the state’s total relative placements and 35% of the state’s total relative licensed placements. The percent of relative placements is slightly higher in BMCW (35%) than in the BOS (34%). The percent of licensed relative placements are equal for both BMCW (12%) and BOS (12%). This is an increase of 35% for BOS from 2010.

Figure 6: BOS has increased licensed relative placements by 35% since 2010.



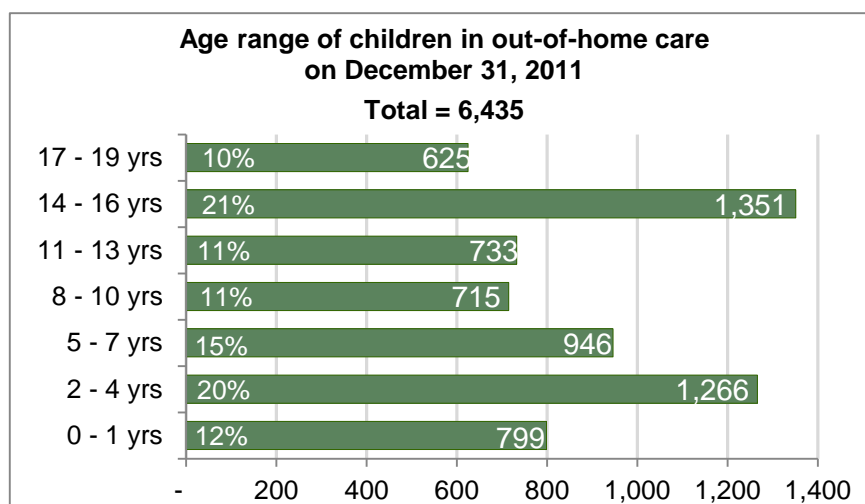
Note: Relative Licensed homes include relative licensed foster homes and relative treatment foster homes

Demographics of Children in Out-of Home Care

Age

Children may be in an OHC placement until they turn 18 or until age 19 if they are attending high school. **Figure 7** displays a count of children in OHC by age range on December 31, 2011. The two largest cohorts of children are ages 14-16 and children ages 2-4.

Figure 7: Children ages 14-16 account for 21% of the children in care.

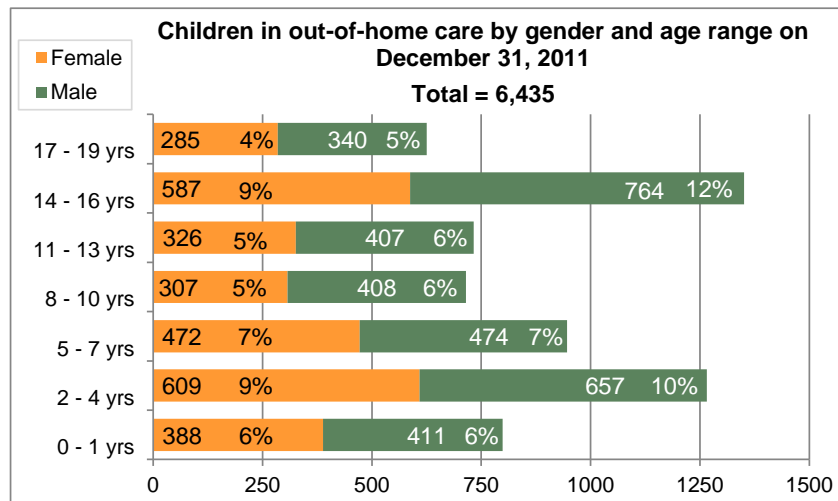


Appendix E includes information on individual county OHC child count, by age range.

Gender

Figure 8 displays the count of children in OHC by gender and age on December 31, 2011. There were 487 more males than females in an OHC placement. The greatest difference between genders is in the age range of 14-16 years, where there are 177 more males than females. The percentages shown are of the total number of children in care.

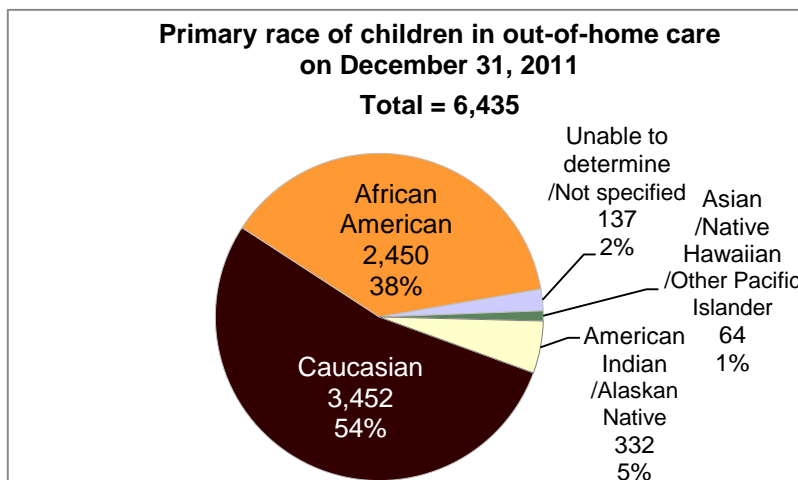
Figure 8: Males accounted for slightly more than half of the OHC population as of December 31, 2011, representing 54%.



Race

In general, a person's race is determined by how the person self-identifies his/her race. In the case of young children, parents specify the race of the child. A worker can select "unable to determine" or "decline" if no person is available to identify the child's race, or if the parent, relative or guardian is unwilling to identify the child's race. **Figure 9** shows the count and percentage of children in OHC by race on December 31, 2011.

Figure 9: Caucasian children account for 54% of the children in OHC. African American children account for 38%.



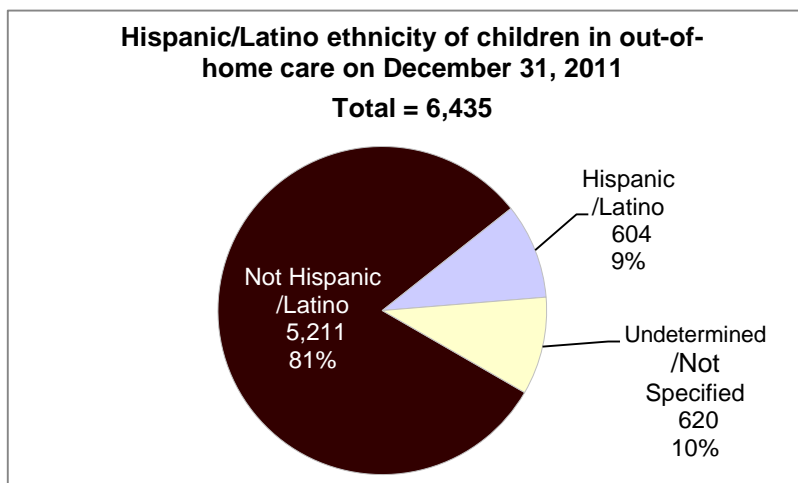
Appendix F contains information on individual primary race counts and percentage by county.

Hispanic/Latino Ethnicity

People of Hispanic/Latino ethnicity may be of any race. A total of 604 children on December 31, 2011 were identified with a Hispanic/Latino ethnicity, accounting for 9% of the OHC population.

Figure 10 shows the number of children with a designation of Yes, No, or Undetermined/not specified regarding their Hispanic/Latino ethnicity.

Figure 10: 9% of children in OHC on December 31, 2011 were identified with a Hispanic/Latino ethnicity.



Appendix G contains information on Hispanic or Latino ethnicity counts and percentage by county.

Disability

Figure 11 presents summary data regarding whether a child in OHC has been clinically diagnosed by a qualified professional as having at least one of the following disabilities:

- Physically disabled
- Visually or hearing impaired
- Emotionally disturbed
- Learning disabled
- Developmentally disabled
- Other medically diagnosed condition(s) requiring special care.

The reporting of a child's disability is frequently under-reported in eWiSACWIS, primarily because the demographic information may not be updated to reflect new information regarding the diagnosis of children. Note that the disability categories are identified by the federal government for AFCARS reporting purposes. The names of the categories reflect those indicated by the federal government.

Figure 11: One in four children in OHC on December 31, 2011 had a diagnosed disability.

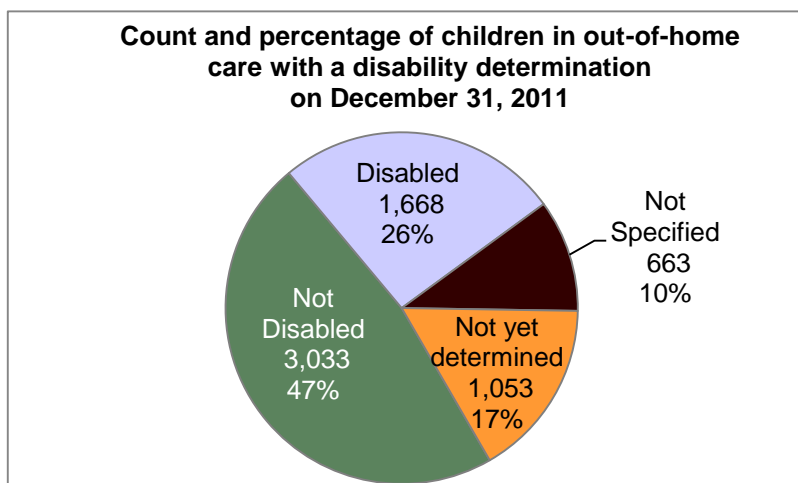
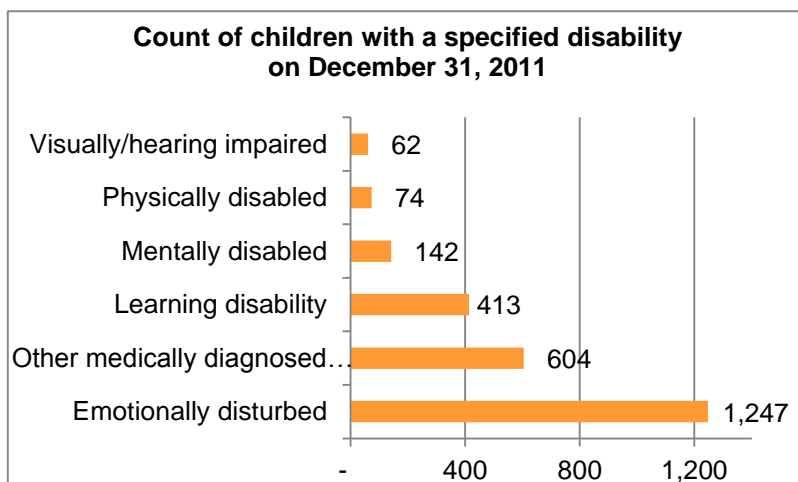


Figure 12 illustrates the types of disability selected for the 1,686 of children in OHC with a documented disability determination. More than one disability may be documented for a unique child.

Figure 12: 74% of the 1,686 children in OHC were identified to have a disability.

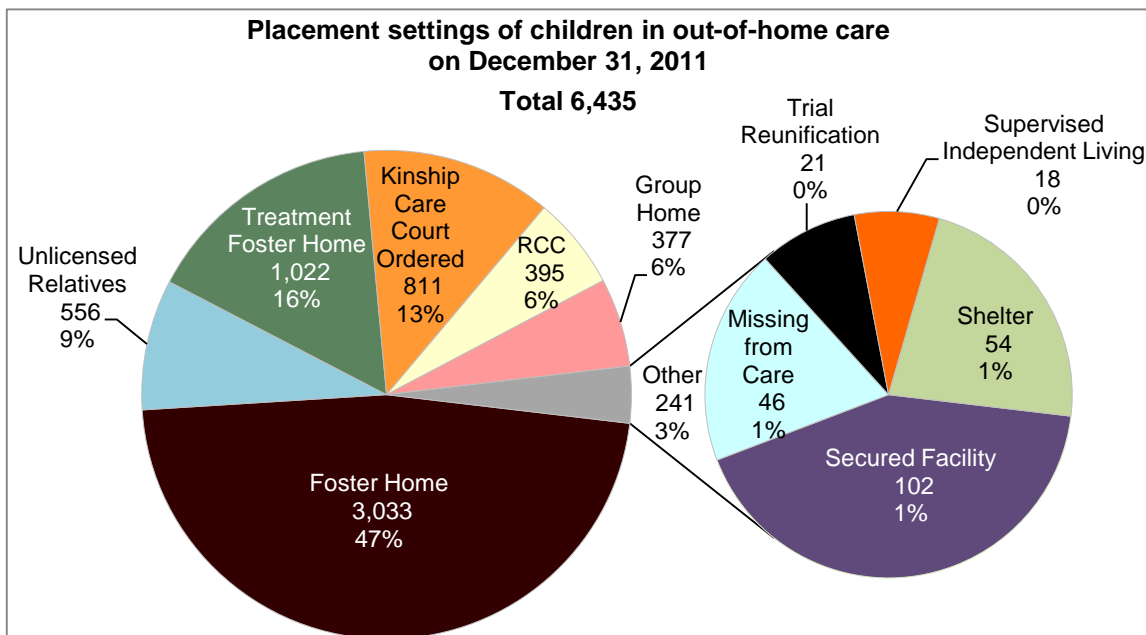


Note: Since children can have more than one diagnosis, counts will total a number that is greater than the number of children.

Child Demographics by Out-of Home Care Placement Settings

This section outlines the number of children in OHC by their placement setting on December 31, 2011. Placement setting is defined as the type of setting in which the child resided at the end of the calendar year. **Appendix H** outlines the placement setting breakdown for all children, with percentages by placement settings. **Appendix I** outlines the count and percent of children in OHC by placement setting, by county. **Appendix J** outlines the placement setting breakdown of all children by age while **Appendix K** breaks down placement setting by race.

Figure 13 The vast majority of children in OHC, 84% are in a home based setting with a relative or non-relative home.



Note: Foster home placement settings are comprised of licensed relative, licensed non-relative, non-relative unlicensed, pre-adoptive, and receiving homes. Treatment foster homes include both non-relative and relative providers. Other is comprised of shelter or secured facility settings, missing from OHC, trial reunifications, and supervised independent living.

Race

Figures 14a-14d displays the seven most frequent placement settings by the child's primary race as indicated in eWiSACWIS. The percentages are based upon the total number of children within each primary race group.

Figure 14a: 83% of Caucasian children are placed in a home base setting including foster family homes, unlicensed relative placements, and court-ordered kinship care. 1% of the children are in a pre-adoptive placement setting.

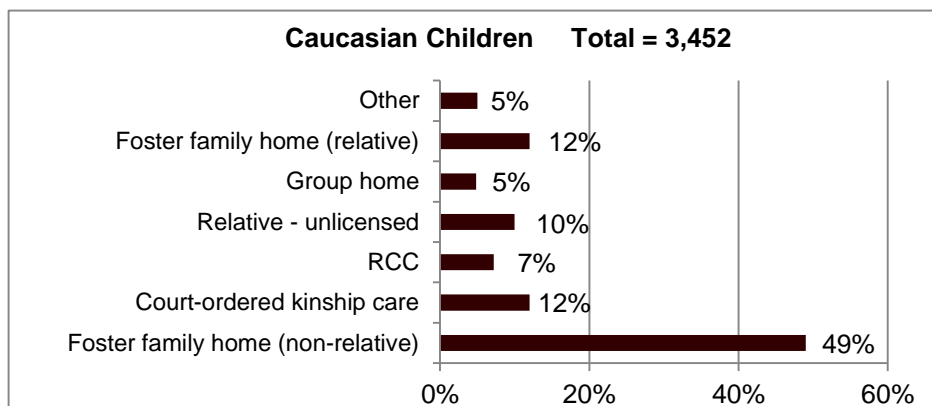


Figure 14b: 81% of African American children are placed in a home based setting including foster family homes, unlicensed relative placements, and court-ordered kinship care. 2% of the children are in a pre-adoptive placement setting.

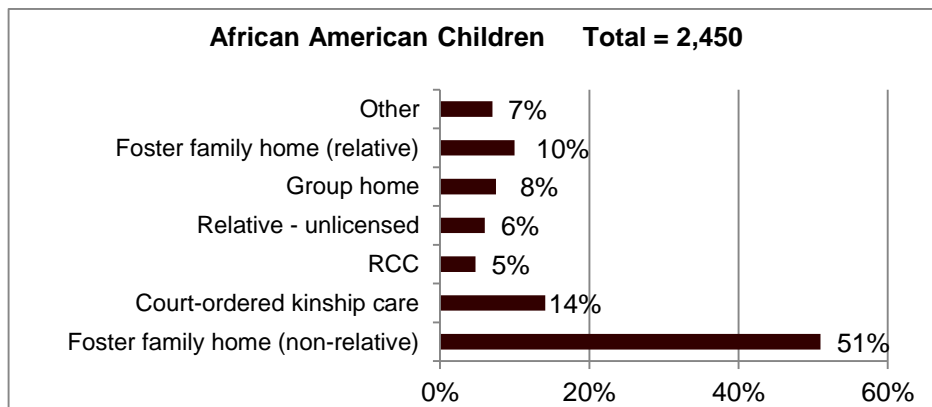


Figure 14c: 85% of American Indian/Alaskan Native children are placed in a home based setting including foster family homes, unlicensed relative placements, and court-ordered kinship care. 1% of the children are in a pre-adoptive placement setting.

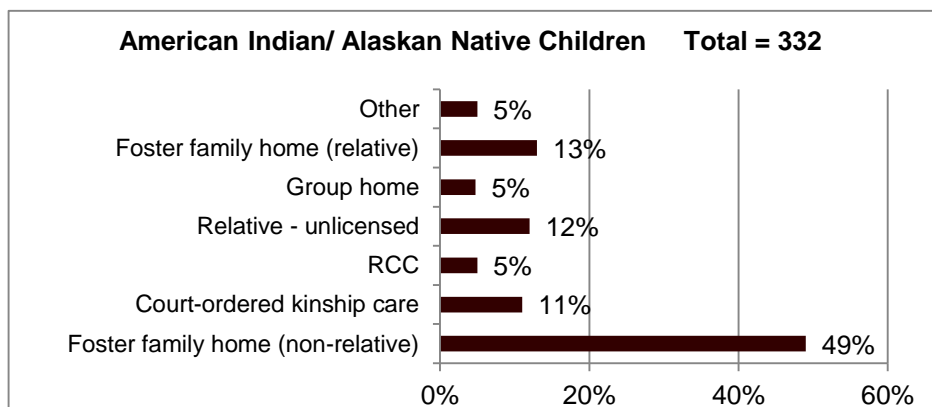
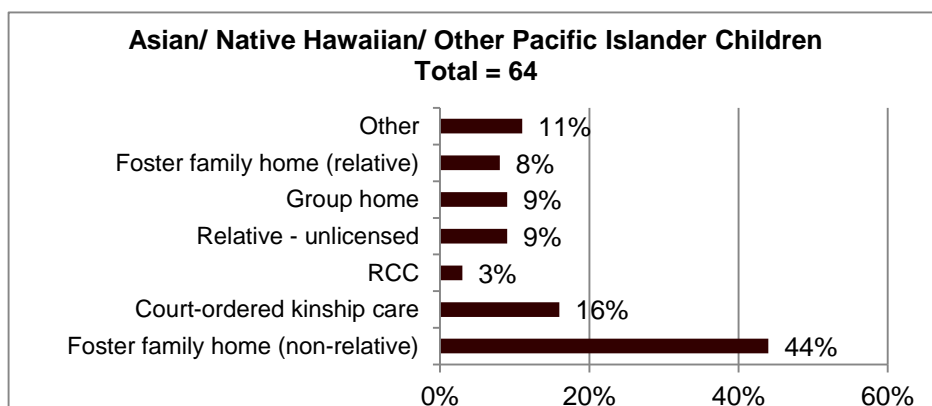


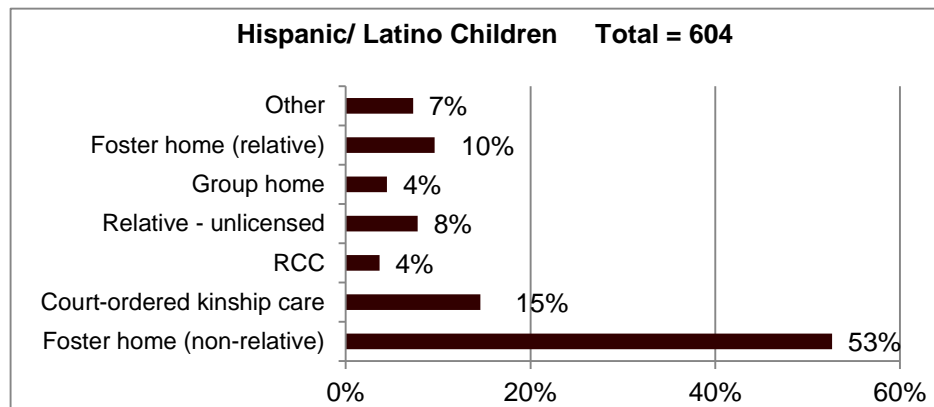
Figure 14d: 77% of Asian/Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander children are placed in a home based setting including foster family homes, unlicensed relative placements, and court-ordered kinship care. 3% of the children are in a pre-adoptive placement setting.



Hispanic/Latino Ethnicity

Figure 15 displays the most frequent placement setting on December 31, 2011 for children identified as Hispanic/Latino.

Figure 15: 86% Latino/Hispanic children are placed in a homed based setting including foster family homes, unlicensed relative placements, and court-ordered kinship care. 2% of the children are in a pre-adoptive placement setting.



Child Entry into Out-of-Home Care in CY 2011

A child's entry into OHC is defined in this report as when a child was removed from home and placed in OHC during CY 2011. Counts included in this report contain information related only to a child's most recent removal from his or her family home and corresponding placement into OHC.

A total of 4,723 children entered OHC statewide during CY 2011; this represents a slight increase from the total of 4,686 children entering OHC in CY 2010. As noted above, this number includes only the child's most recent entry into OHC within a given county or the BMCW.

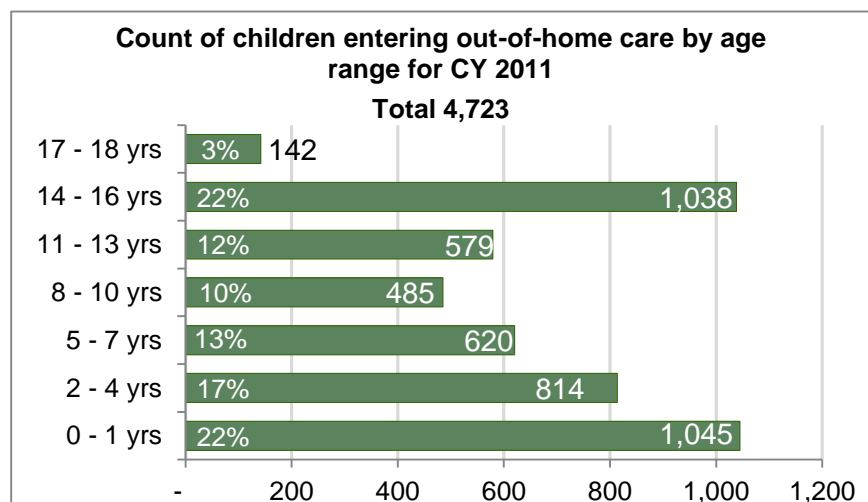
Appendix L shows CY 2011 entries by county. If a child entered care more than one time or in more than one county, this appendix shows the most recent entry in each county. **Appendix M** illustrates the number of entries per 1,000 on a map of Wisconsin by county.

Child Demographics of Entries

Entries by Child Age Range

Children may enter into an OHC placement until they turn 18. **Figure 16** displays the breakdown of ages of children at the time of their most recent entry into OHC during CY 2011. The 0-1 and 14-16 age ranges accounted for the largest percentage of entries into OHC with 22%, followed by children in the 2-4 age bracket (17%).

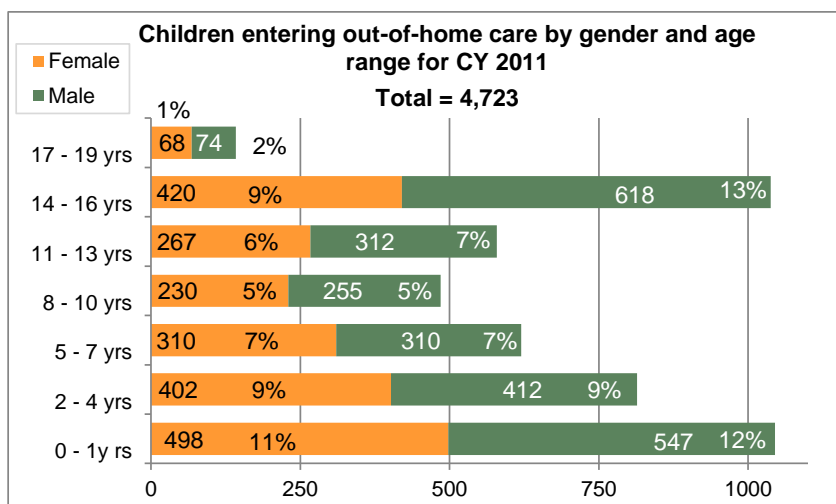
Figure 16: Children 0-1 and 14-16 years old account for the same percentages of entries at 22%.



Entries by Child Gender

Figure 17 displays the 2011 CY counts of children who entered OHC by gender and age. The percentages shown are of the total entries. During CY 2011, 333 more males than females entered OHC.

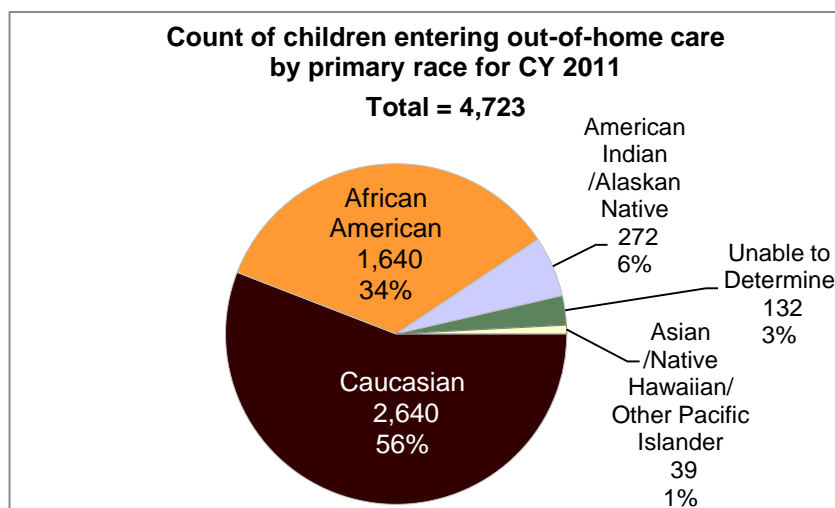
Figure 17: Throughout the year in nearly every age range, more males enter OHC than females. This difference is most pronounced in the 14-16 years bracket, with 198 more males entering OHC.



Entries by Child Race

Figure 18 shows the count of children who entered OHC by race during CY 2011. Caucasian children account for 56% of the entries, followed by African American children, who account for 34% of the entries.

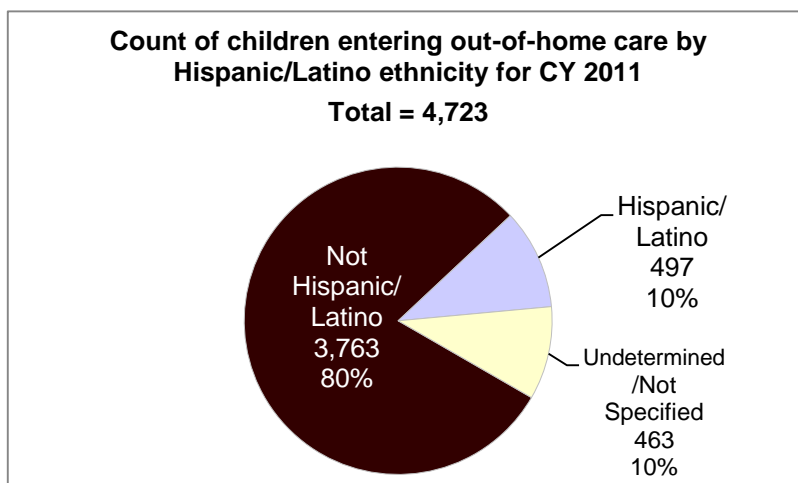
Figure 18: Caucasian children accounted for over one half of the children entering OHC in CY 2011.



Entries of Hispanic/Latino Children

Figure 19 shows a total of 497 Hispanic/Latino children entered OHC during CY 2011.

Figure 19: 10% of children entering care in CY 2011 were identified as having Hispanic/Latino ethnicity.

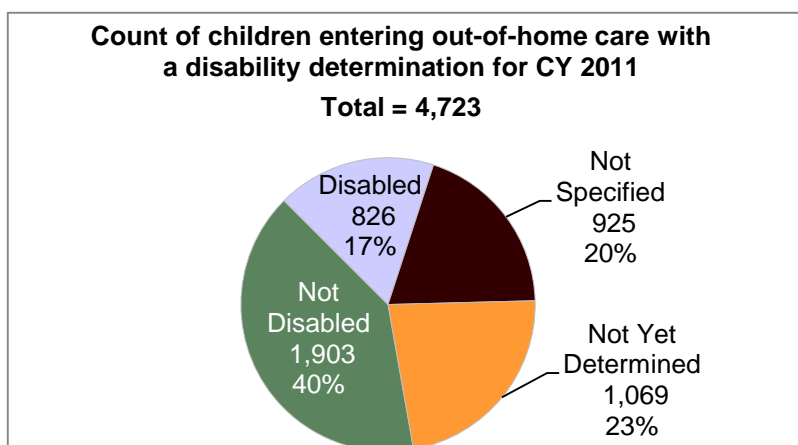


Entries for Children with Diagnosed Disabilities

826 children who entered OHC during CY 2011 were identified as having at least one clinically diagnosed disability. This is a marked increase of 334 more children than in CY 2010 children that were diagnosed (492). This is likely due to the use of the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths Tool (CANS), which helps assess the child's level of need. This accounts for 17% of the total population that entered OHC in CY 2011. Additional information about a child's disability obtained later in the case history may not be reflected in the child's demographic information. Thus, the number of children with disabilities is likely under-reported in the OHC population.

Figure 20 shows a breakdown of children by disability status for the CY 2011 entries.

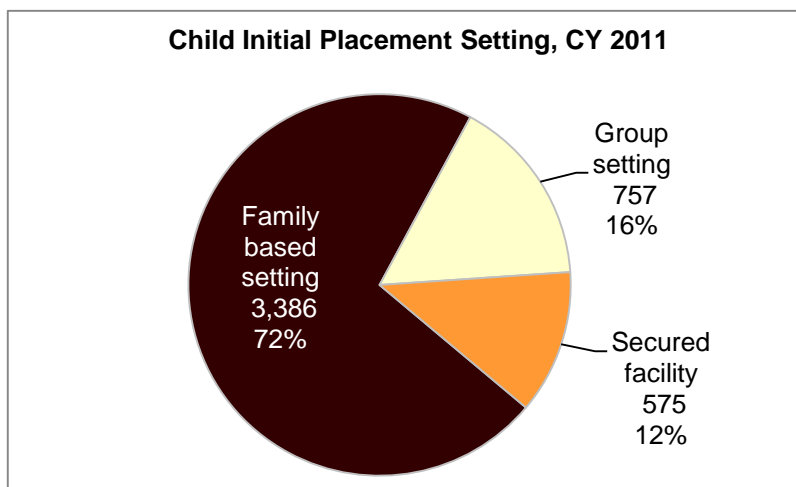
Figure 20: 17% of children entering OHC in CY 2011 had a documented disability. This amount is likely under-reported.



Initial Placement Settings

When a child enters OHC, an agency has numerous choices as to where to place the child with the least restrictive placement being the most desirable. A child may be placed in a family foster home setting, a group setting or a secured facility setting. Initial placements may be a receiving home or a shelter facility, which are used to assess the child's needs and identify an appropriate placement. Child welfare program goals are to place the child in the least restrictive setting and allow the child to remain in the community to the extent possible. **Figure 21** details a breakdown of the three possible placement groupings.

Figure 21: Over two-thirds of children coming into OHC in CY 2011 had an initial placement in a family foster home setting. In this graph, foster home settings do include unlicensed and court-ordered kinship care placements.



Appendix N lists counts of all initial placement settings for all children entering OHC in CY 2011.

Child Removal Reasons

A child welfare worker is required to document removal reasons when a child enters OHC. Workers are encouraged to select as many removal reasons that apply to the specific case. These removal reasons are provided by Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS), a federal system that collects case-level information from state child welfare agencies on all children in OHC. **Appendix O** lists all removal reasons and their corresponding definitions. Table 1 shows the number and percentage of children for each removal. Because a child may have more than one removal reason, the count of reasons is higher than the count of children and the percent of children impacted by all reasons will sum to higher than the number of children removed in CY 2011.

Table 1: Removal reason, count, percent of total reasons and percent of total children entering care with this reason in CY 2011. It is possible for a child to have more than one removal reason per entry into care.

AFCARS Removal Reason	Count	% of Total Removal Reasons	% of Children who have Removal Reason
Neglect	2,447	36%	52%
Child behavior problem	1,096	16%	23%
Physical abuse	672	10%	14%
Caretaker drug abuse	577	8%	12%
Caretaker inability to cope	537	8%	11%
Incarcerated caretaker	526	8%	11%
Caretaker alcohol abuse	231	3%	5%
Inadequate housing	218	3%	5%
Sexual abuse	121	2%	3%
Abandonment	99	1%	2%
Child disability	80	1%	2%
Child drug abuse	74	1%	2%
Relinquishment	65	1%	1%
Child alcohol abuse	40	1%	1%
Caretaker death	38	1%	1%
Total Removals	6,821	100%	-

Removal Reasons by Child Age Range and Gender

Figure 22a-22g show the five most frequent removal reasons for each age group broken out by age and gender. Child behavior becomes a top five removal reason after the age of 7, with more males removed than females in every age range starting at 8-10 years. A child may have multiple removals in the below graphs, and may have multiple reasons associated with each removal.

Figure 22a: For children 0-1 years old, neglect was the most common removal reason followed by the caretaker substance alcohol.

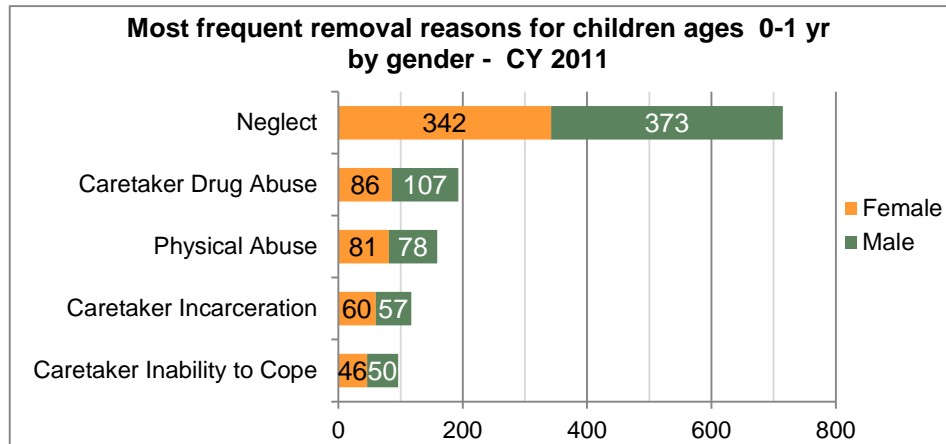


Figure 22b:

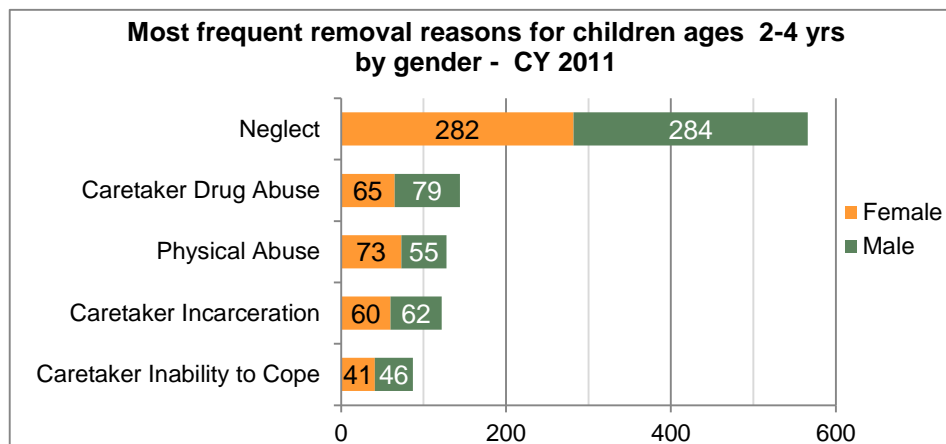


Figure 22c:

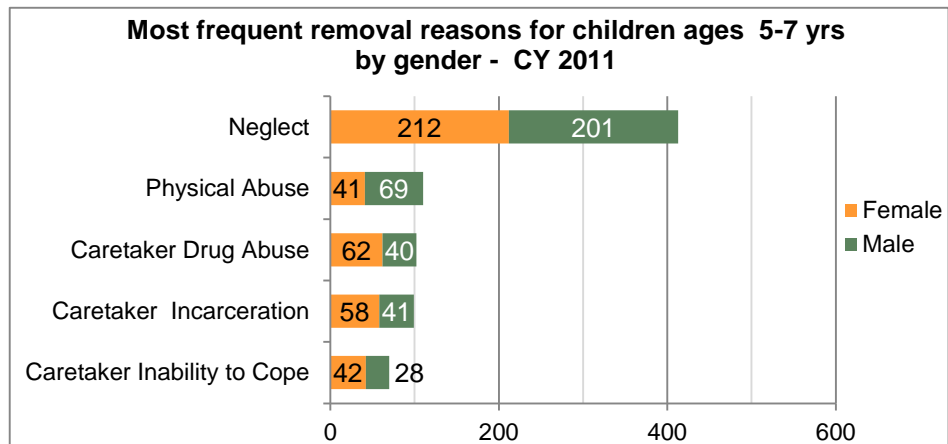


Figure 22d:

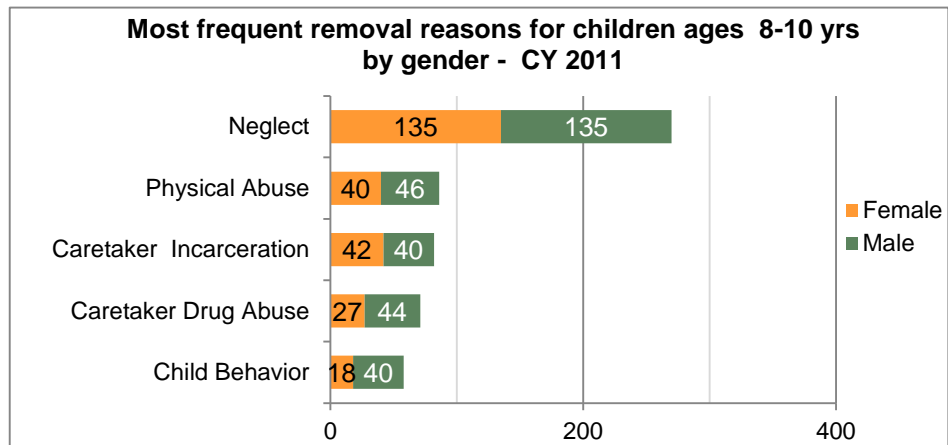


Figure 22e:

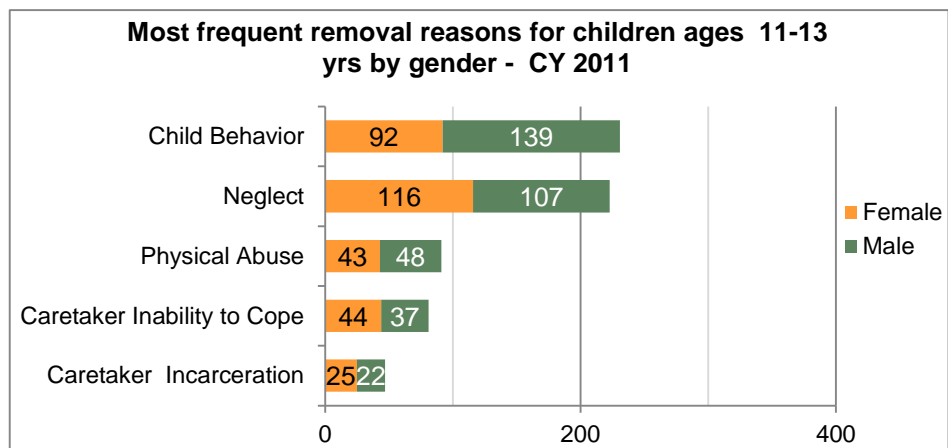


Figure 22f:

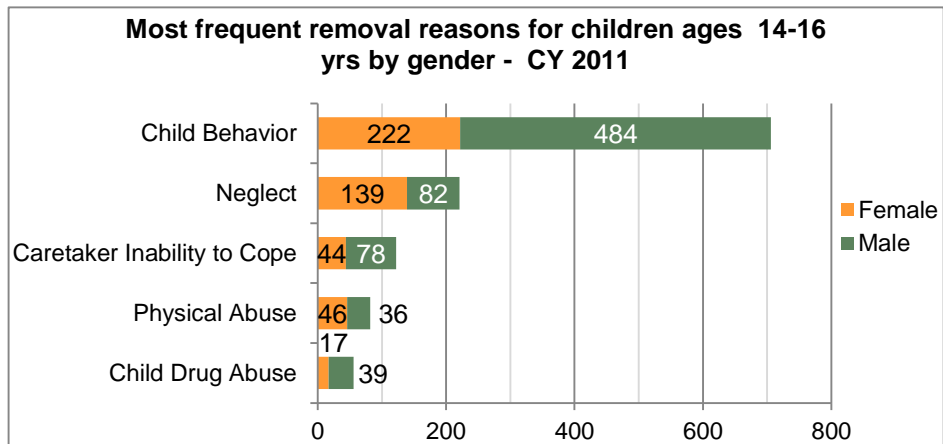
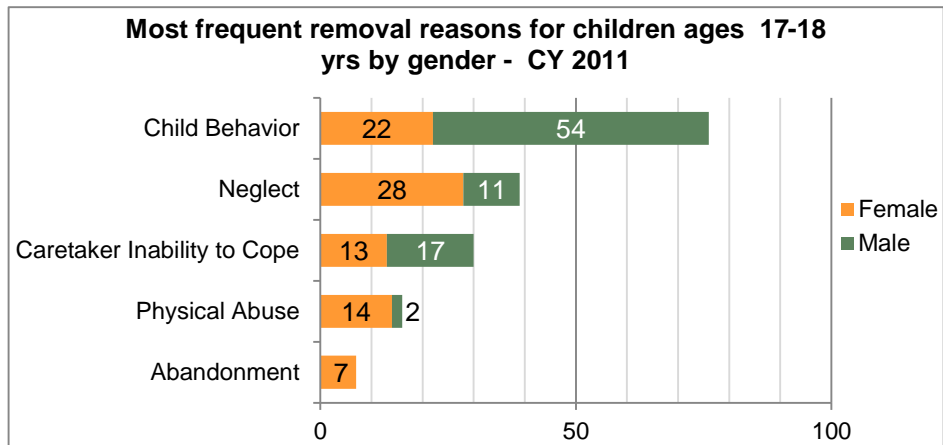


Figure 22g:



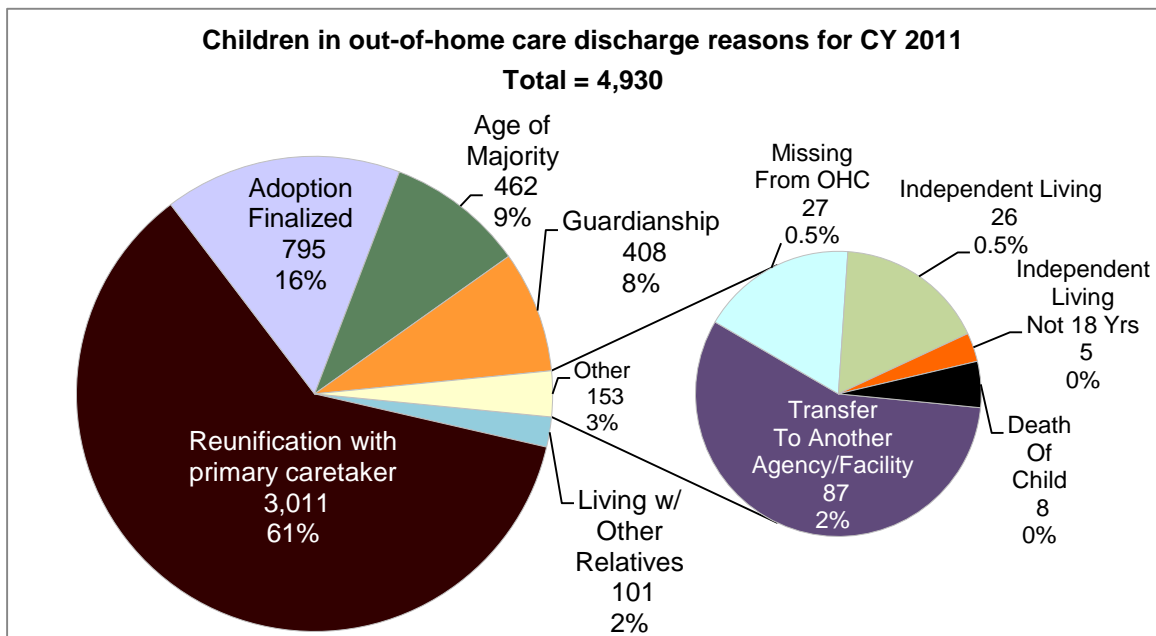
Child Discharge from Out-of-Home Care in CY 2011

Discharge Reasons

A child's discharge from OHC is defined as the end of a placement with no subsequent placements by an agency or the court. In these instances, a child is exiting a placement to a permanency outcome and the child welfare agency is no longer responsible for the child's physical custody. The child and his or her family may continue to receive services after the discharge from placement. Counts included in this report contain information related to a child's most recent discharge from OHC.

A total of 4,930 children were discharged from OHC statewide in CY 2011, an increase of 191 children as compared to CY 2010. CY 2011 includes 795 children who were adopted through the SNAP program during this period. **Figure 23** shows the outcomes for children discharged from OHC during CY 2011.

Figure 23: Reunification accounted for nearly two-thirds of discharges in CY 2011 at 61%.



Appendix P includes counts of entries and exit counts by county for CY 2011.

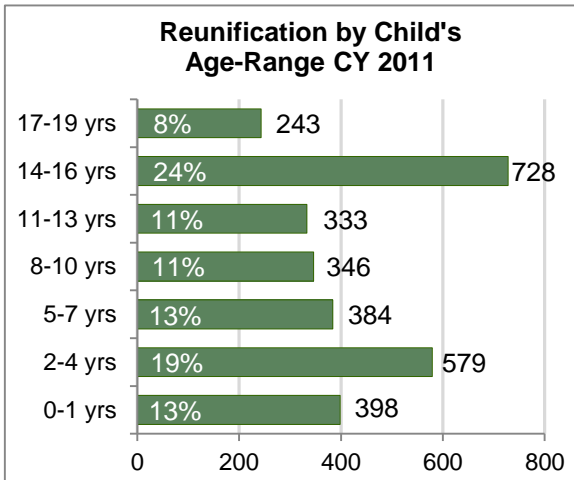
Child Discharge Demographics

Demographic counts are based on a child's most recent discharge from OHC. All demographic data below is broken out by discharge reason, as the demographics for each reason vary.

In the following charts, Not Specified includes those children where the demographic information was either listed as "Unable to Determine", "Declined", or not documented. The demographic group listed in the charts as American Indian also includes Alaskan Native. Child's age is calculated from the most recent discharge date in 2011.

Figure 24: Reunification for CY 2011 by Age, Gender, Race, and Hispanic/Latino ethnicity.

Total = 3,011



Note: Not depicted in above graph is 1 child, 19 – 21 years.

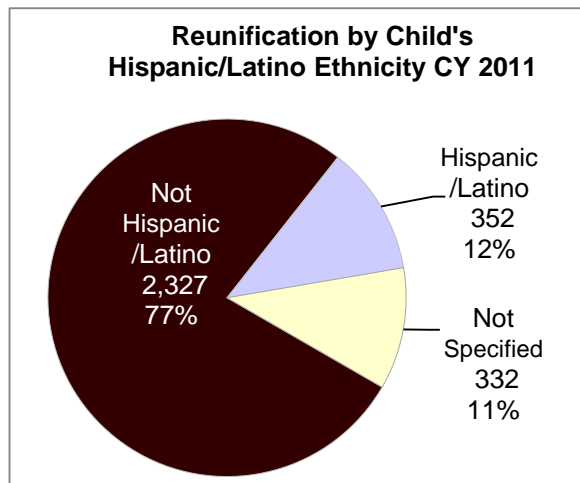
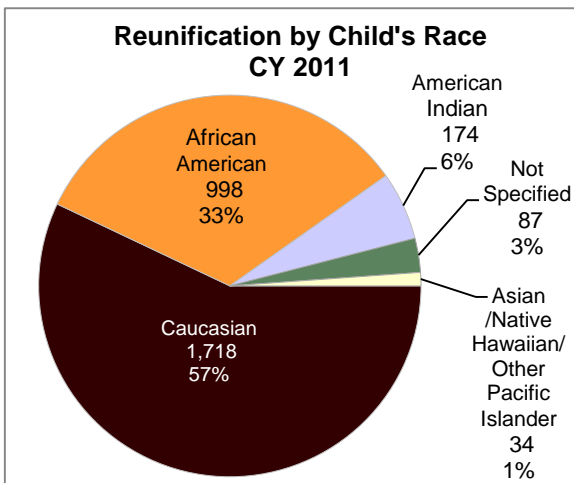
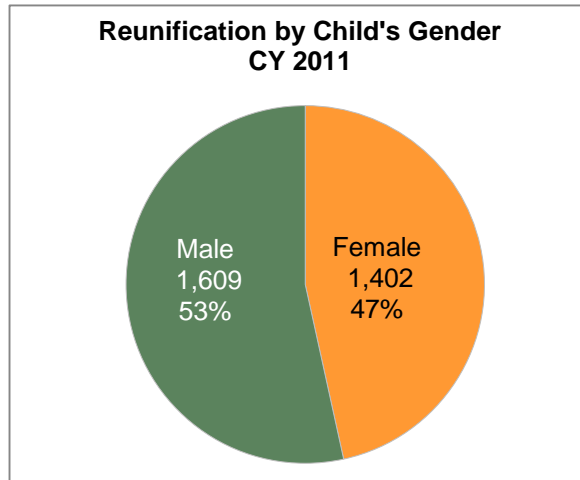


Figure 25: Guardianship for CY 2011 by Age, Gender, Race, and Hispanic/Latino ethnicity.

Total = 408

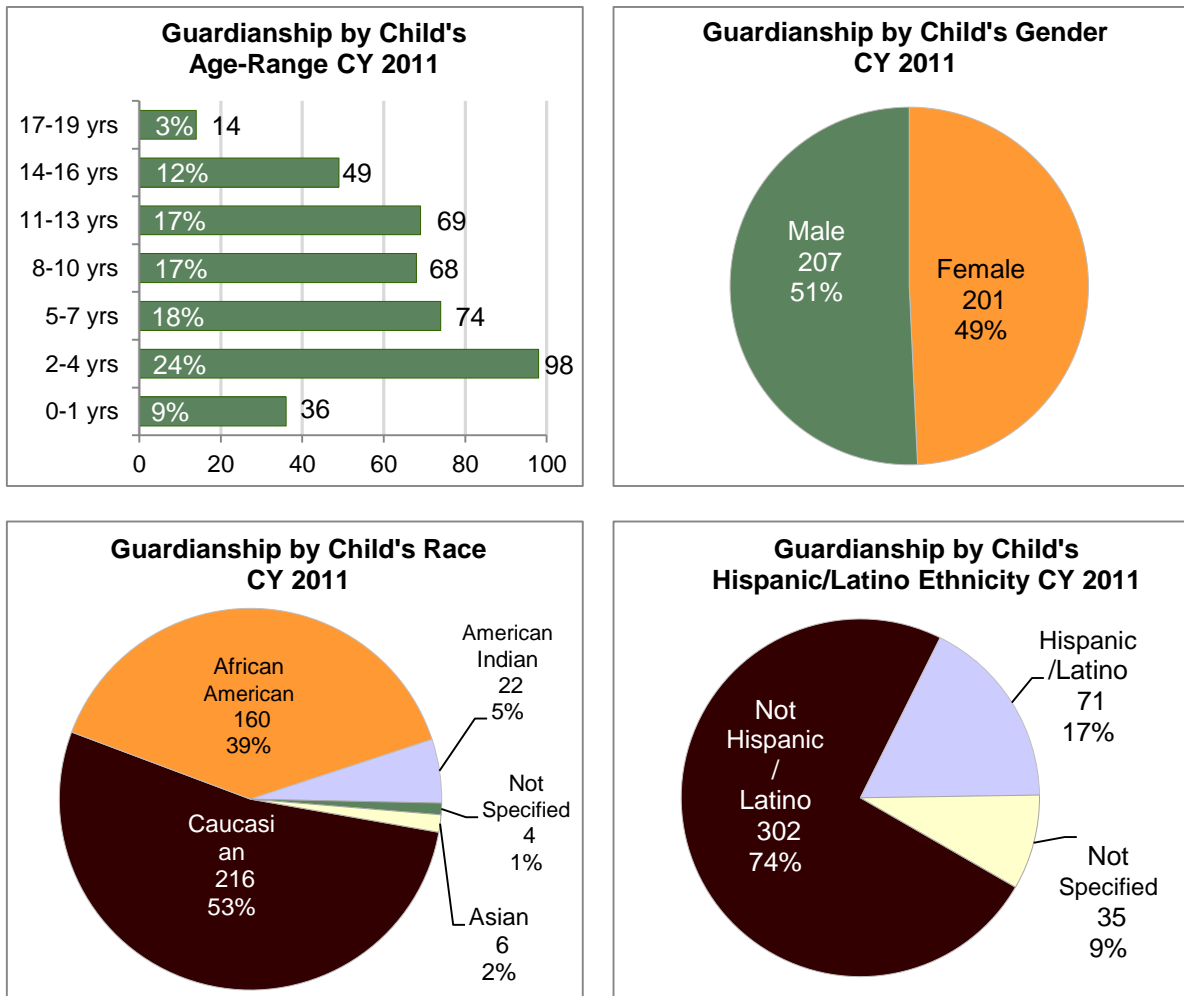
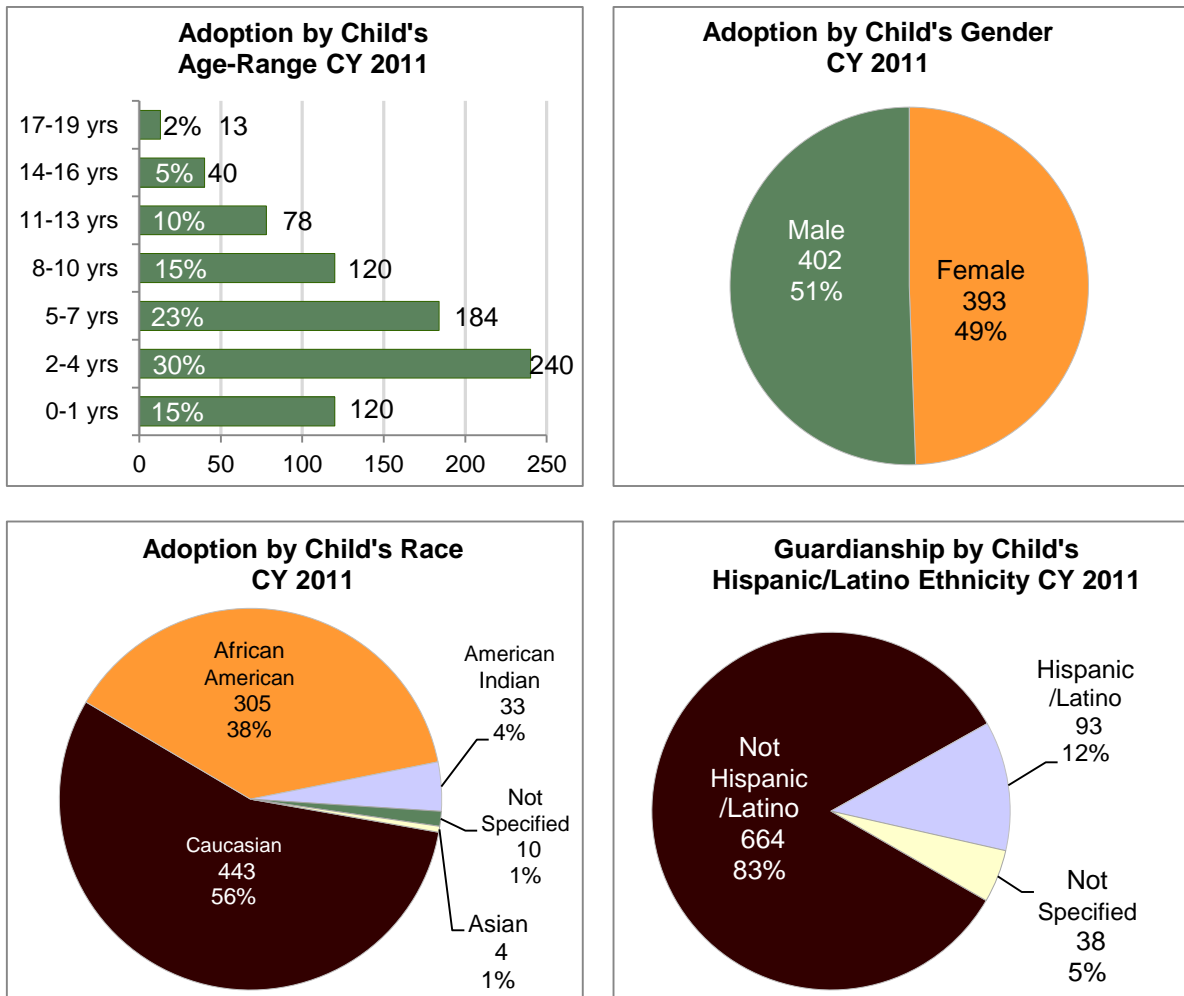


Figure 26: Adoption for CY 2011 by Age, Gender, Race, and Hispanic/Latino ethnicity.

Total = 795



Median Time to Discharge

Median Time to Discharge presents summary data on the median length of the OHC placement episode prior to discharge. The length of time is based on the time from the child's removal from home until the time of discharge. Statewide, children spent a median of 326 days in care before discharge. **Figure 27** displays the total Median Time to Discharge for children in OHC during CY 2011 by age. **Figure 28** displays the same information by Race.

Figure 27: Children 17-19 years have spent over 1.5 years in care, on average, when they discharge.

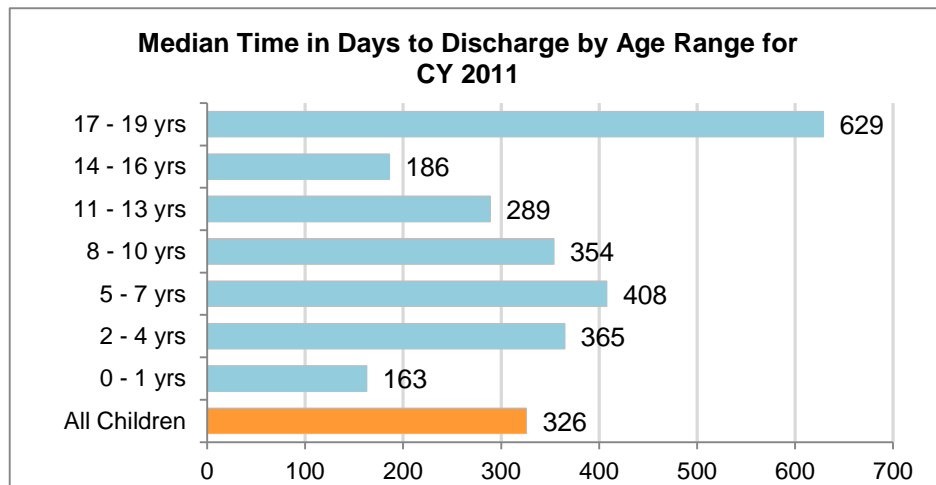
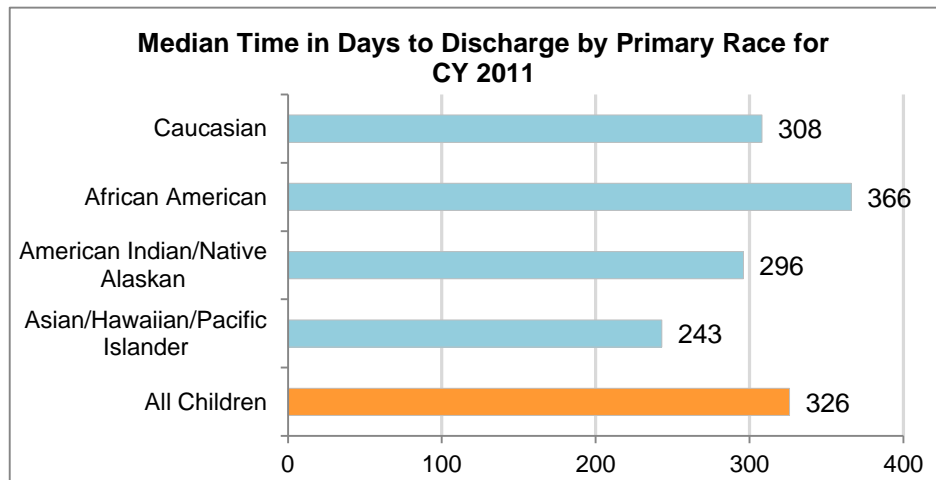


Figure 28: African American children have longer stays in care than Caucasian children by a difference of 58 days.



Note: The 113 children, whose race was not documented, are not represented in the above chart but are included in the All Children calculation.

Entries and Discharge Comparison for Children Entering and Exiting Out-of-Home Care in CY 2011

This section compares the demographics of the 4,723 children who entered and the 4,930 who exited OHC during the 2011 CY. The figures below illustrate the comparison by Age, Race, and Hispanic ethnicity.

Figure 29: Children 0-1 and 14-16 years have nearly the same rates of entry, while children 2-4 years lead in discharges.

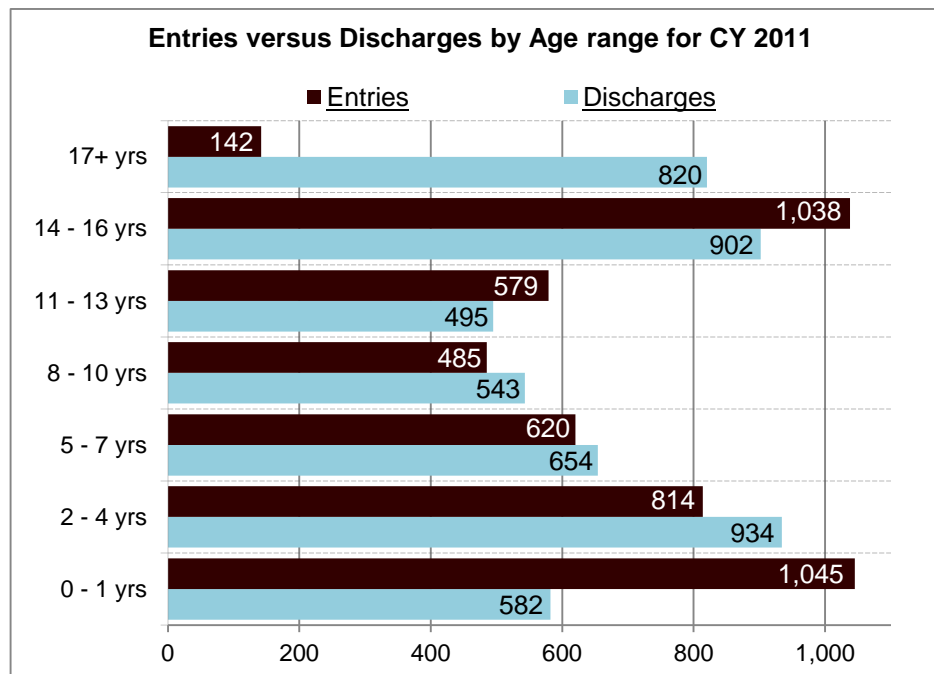


Figure 30: Males have higher entry and discharge rates than females; however neither gender has a significant difference between entries and discharges.

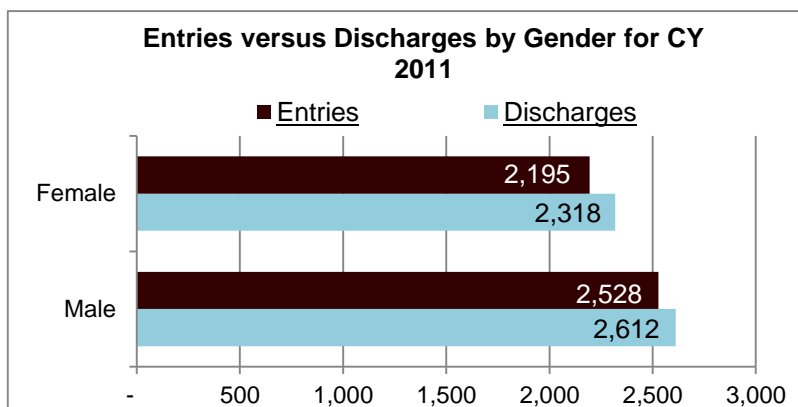


Figure 31: More Caucasian children enter than any other race; however no race has a significant difference between entries and discharges.

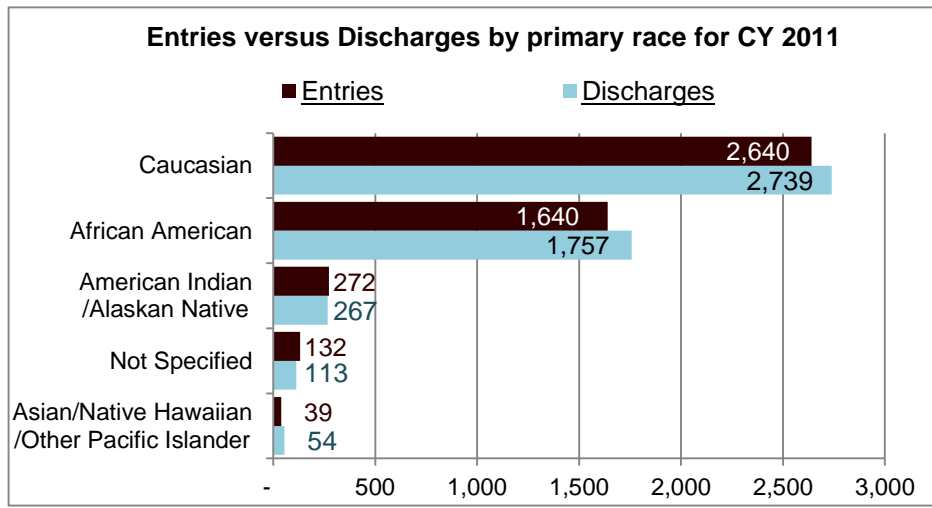


Figure 32: There does not appear to be a significant difference between entry and exits when focusing on ethnicity.

